Accessible and Inclusive Classroom Practices

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Disability Figures: the US landscape

• 26% of the U.S. population have some form of disability (visual, hearing, mobility, cognitive) (CDC, 2020)

• In 2020, 12.6 percent of unemployed people had a disability (5.3 percent higher than in 2019) and people with disabilities are much less likely to be employed (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021)

• Depression is 2-10 times more common among people with disabilities (Thompson, 2019)
Types of Disabilities

- **Hearing**
  - Deafness and hard of hearing

- **Visual**
  - Blindness, low vision, color blindness

- **Mobility**
  - Inability to use a mouse, slow response time, limited fine motor control

- **Cognitive**
  - Learning disabilities, distractibility, attention deficit
Examples of Assistive Technologies

Refreshable Braille display

Screen Magnifier

Head Wand

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can my applications be used with only the keyboard?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are my videos captioned?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do my podcasts include transcriptions?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do all the images in my course have appropriate text descriptions?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the text in my course easily readable to people with low vision?</td>
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Ask Yourself… (2 of 2)

1. Do all text and design elements have enough color contrast?
2. Do all my pages include headings?
3. Are tables and lists structured for accessibility?
4. Do all graphs use shape and texture in addition to color?
Low Hanging Fruit for Checking Content

- Familiarize with **accessibility checkers** in MS Office, Canvas, PDFs

**Quick test:**

- Use only your Tab key to navigate a site or online content item. **No mouse!** You may find that you cannot access parts of the content, you are unsure where you are, or the order seems illogical.
All learning experiences benefit from…

1. Content customizable by the end user
2. Some degree of flexibility and
3. Allowance of third-party software or hardware
   • Screen reader, white cane, controller, head wand, mouth stick, voice recognition software, ear haptics
References


Your Feedback is Welcome!

Contact: CLEAR.Compliance@unt.edu

Check out: clear.unt.edu/ally